

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS MAPUTO 001645

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE
FOR AF/S TREGER
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [MZ](#) [DHLAKAMA](#)
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE - DHLAKAMA DENOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS,
APPEALS FOR CALM

REF: MAPUTO 1639 AND PREVIOUS

Sensitive but Unclassified - handle accordingly. Not for internet distribution.

1. (SBU) On December 23, a day after the National Elections Commission (CNE) declared Armando Guebuza and his party, FRELIMO, the winners in the presidential and parliamentary elections (reftel), Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the main opposition party RENAMO, held a press conference in Maputo in which he denounced the elections as fraudulent but appealed for calm. Reading from a prepared text, Dhlakama alleged that the reasons for his and RENAMO's losses were the exclusion of voters in RENAMO areas from the registration process, deliberate confusion with regard to polling places and voter lists, use of intimidation tactics by the police, ballot box stuffing, tampering with RENAMO ballots, and finally the "introduction of more than one million votes" for FRELIMO in computerized tabulations at the national level. (Comment: The last accusation is particularly lacking in credibility, as the final results were very similar to the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) carried out by the National Observatory and backed by the Carter Center. The PVT relied on local vote records from a representative sample of polling places and so was independent of any actions at the national tabulation level. End comment.) Dhlakama said that none of the 90 RENAMO deputies elected to the Assembly would take their seats, adding that he would not join the State Council in a position awarded the runner-up in the presidential race because he was not the runner-up. He appealed for calm, however. Answering a reporter's question, he promised that neither he nor any RENAMO member would resort to fighting over the outcome.

2. (SBU) Over the past several days there have been reports of heightened concern over the reaction of RENAMO to the election announcement, although we have not heard of any significant demonstrations or protests. According to sources in CNE, the Commission postponed by a day announcing the election results because of the threat of demonstrations. Meanwhile, a small group of religious leaders (Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim) plan to call on President Chissano, president-elect Guebuza and Dhlakama to urge Dhlakama to keep any protests peaceful and urge Chissano and Guebuza to have the police react with restraint to any peaceful protests.

3. (SBU) Comment: Although Dhlakama and his aides have been saying that they may not be able to control their rank and file, we have seen little evidence of tension. Dhlakama's reaction is quite similar to the stance he and RENAMO took after losing the 1999 elections by a much narrower margin, under circumstances in which irregularities had a much greater potential to affect the outcome. At that time, several weeks after he threatened to boycott the Assembly, RENAMO deputies took their seats. Bad feeling over the election simmered on, however, and eleven months later a demonstration in northern Mozambique turned violent. We do not believe tensions here are as serious this time; at this moment, with the streets busy with holiday shoppers, such a turn of events is difficult to imagine.

4. (SBU) Separately, the European Union observer mission, the Carter Center, and the National Observatory all have held press conferences or issued statements this week on the electoral process. The organizations were very critical of many irregularities, including results in some polling places that seemed to be the result of ballot stuffing. However, all emphasized that the irregularities did not affect the outcome of the presidential election, though some said they had affected the distribution of a few seats in the Assembly.
DUDLEY